

Appln. No. 10/086,395
Response dated Aug. 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2005
Docket No. BOC9-2001-0019 (264)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of May 4, 2005 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Claims 8-10 and 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a corresponding rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 has been amended to include each of the limitations in Claim 8, which had depended from Claim 1 and which is hereby cancelled. Independent claim 11 has also been amended to include each of the limitations of Claim 18, which had depended from Claim 11 and which is hereby cancelled.

Applicants' respectfully emphasize that the amendment of Claims 1 and 11 should not be construed as an agreement with the rejection of the claims as originally formulated. Applicants, in making the amendments, wish to expedite the process for obtaining protection of the subject matter disclosed in the application, but also wish to preserve their right to pursue all protection to which they are entitled regarding the disclosed subject matter at a latter time.

Applicants respectfully asset that each of the independent claims, as amended, now recites subject matter acknowledged by the Examiner to be allowable. Applicants, moreover, respectfully maintain that each of the remaining claims thus now depends from an independent claim reciting subject matter acknowledged by the Examiner to be allowable.

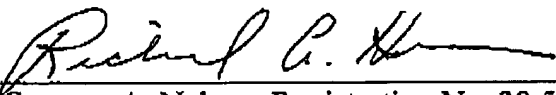
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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 4, 2005


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